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16 March 1976

NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR : RE CFI AND NRP

FROM: E. H. Knoche
Acting Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

At your recent meeting with [] he gave you an advance glimpse of a proposed agenda for an April meeting of the CFI to deal with the NRP. You asked for our views on that agenda and on [] hope for reduced size of attendance at the meeting. (You will recall he noted that attendance at past NRP Excoms had run as high as 35; he proposed scaling it back to something on the order of 12 to 15.)

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We concur with the proposed agenda and we also agree in principle that the number of people attending these meetings can be reduced.

One of the reasons for the rather high number of people in the past was the fact that the NRP Excom has always been of great importance to a large number of officers with a legitimate need to know what the NRP issues and decisions are. Normally, the NRO surfaced the issues a rather short time before the meeting took place -- a time insufficient for adequate consideration of what was being proposed. One consequence was the sizeable attendance.

If we can now work out staff-to-staff arrangements between the ICS and the NRO to begin jointly to tailor agenda items for the CFI, there is no question in my mind but that the number of attendees can be reduced significantly. This then is a problem of procedures.

At this stage of the game the NRO is unwilling to cut the IC Staff into advanced details. NRO officers are hopeful that the CFI will look to the NRO and not the IC Staff to serve the CFI on NRP matters. This is a factor bearing on a decision the CFI must take in respect to the process to be employed in taking up programmatic issues and feeding back decisions and guidance.

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In the meantime, the NRO does require CFI decisions in April. Meeting dates of 26 April, 27 April or 4 May have been suggested and one of those dates will be picked. Meanwhile, too, it turns out that Secretary Ellsworth was not aware of the proposed agenda and we have asked NRO to move the subject through him for any comments he may have as a CFI member before we schedule anything for the CFI.



E. H. Knoche

Attachments:

Tab A - NRP Agenda

Tab B - List of Excom Attendees

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